IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

3. (Amended) A piezoelectric transformer as recited in claim 1, characterized in that

electrodes are respectively provided on said first main face and said second main face of said first piezoelectric substrate, and said first piezoelectric substrate between said electrodes is polarized in a direction perpendicular to said first main face.

4. (Amended) A piezoelectric transformer as recited in claim 1, characterized in that

said first piezoelectric substrate have a structure in which a plurality of electrode layers and a plurality of piezoelectric material layers each formed of a piezoelectric material are alternately laminated, said plurality of electrode layers are grouped into two electrode groups, and said electrode layers within the same electrode group are electrically connected to each other.

8. (Amended) A piezoelectric transformer as recited in claim 1, characterized in that

an electrical connection portion, which is to be connected to an external circuit, of said input section is formed on a side face along said longitudinal direction and at a vibrational node portion in said longitudinal direction of said one of said piezoelectric substrates;

an electrical connection portion, which is to be connected to the external circuit, of said output section is formed on a side face along said longitudinal direction and at a vibrational node portion in said longitudinal direction of said other of said piezoelectric substrates; and

an electrical connection between said electrical connection portion, which is to be connected to the outside, of said input section and said external circuit and an electrical connection between said electrical connection portion, which is to be connected to the outside, of said output section and said external circuit, and mechanical connections to support the piezoelectric transformer are performed via conductors.

11. (Amended) A piezoelectric transformer as recited in claim 9, characterized in that

an electrode is provided on each of said two main faces of each of said first piezoelectric substrate and said second

piezoelectric substrate, and said first piezoelectric substrate and said second piezoelectric substrate are respectively polarized in a direction perpendicular to said main faces.

12. (Amended) A piezoelectric transformer as recited in claim 9, characterized in that

a circular electrode is provided at a central portion of at least one of said main faces of at least one of said first piezoelectric substrate and said second piezoelectric substrate,

a ring-like electrode is provided at an outer edge portion of said at least one of said main faces of said at least one of said first and second piezoelectric substrates, and said at least one of said first piezoelectric substrate and said second piezoelectric substrate between said circular electrode and said ring-like electrode is polarized in a radial direction.

13. (Amended) A piezoelectric transformer as recited in claim 9, characterized in that

at least one of said first piezoelectric substrate and said second piezoelectric substrate has a structure in which a plurality of electrode layers and a plurality of piezoelectric material layers formed of a piezoelectric material are alternately laminated in a thickness direction, said plurality

of electrode layers are alternately electrically connected, and the electrode layers adjacent to each other are insulated in terms of direct current.

17. (Amended) A piezoelectric transformer as recited in claim 15, characterized in that

said electrode layers provided on said first piezoelectric substrate and said second piezoelectric substrate have circular shapes.

18. (Amended) A piezoelectric transformer as recited in claim 14, characterized in that

said first main faces and said second main faces of said first piezoelectric substrate and said second piezoelectric substrate have square shapes and a center of a circle drawn to be inscribed in said square coincides with a center of said connector provided between said first piezoelectric substrate and said second piezoelectric substrate.

19. (Amended) A piezoelectric transformer as recited in claim 14, characterized in that

sizes of main faces of said connector, which are opposed to said main faces of said first piezoelectric substrate and said second piezoelectric substrate, are equal to or smaller than circles drawn

to be inscribed in peripheries of said main faces of said first piezoelectric substrate and said second piezoelectric substrate.

20. (Amended) A piezoelectric transformer as recited in claim 1, characterized in that

said at least two piezoelectric substrates further include a third piezoelectric substrate,

said third piezoelectric substrate is set to be either the input section or the output section, and

said first to third piezoelectric substrates are disposed so that the input section and the output section are disposed mirror symmetric.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application.

The claims have been amended to remove the multiple dependencies and to place the application into better form prior to examination.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version showing the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments

(Rev. 03/27/01)